

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #14

COMMUNITIES THAT CROSS COUNTY BOUDARIES

Frequently communities, especially growing communities, have their corporate limits located in two or more counties. While this should not cause any more problems for communities with individual plans than those faced by communities located in only one county, it does cause at least one immediate problem for communities that are included in a multi-jurisdictional planning process. **How does the community deal with being in more than one County, if the other county is not involved in the same multi-jurisdictional process?**

We recommend that you first talk to your municipal attorney to determine if there are any State laws that limit your ability to make a decision. Once you have cleared that hurdle, your next step is to determine if both counties are planning to complete a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan including the communities in the county. If only one County is completing a mitigation plan, your decision is easy. However, if both Counties are preparing a multi-jurisdictional plan we recommend that your decision be based on the following:

- ☐ In which County is the majority of your community located?
- ☐ Which Counties land-use regulations more closely approximate the land-use regulations in your community?
- ☐ In which County do the hazards most approximate the hazards in your community?
- ☐ Which County does your community work the best with?

Deciding that you are going to be involved with the multi-jurisdictional planning process with one County does not mean that you should ignore the other County. You may need hazard data from the second County or they may need data from your community. We also recommend that you stay involved with the second County's planning process, so that you know about any mitigation actions that they are planning to take that will have an affect, positive or negative, on your community or your mitigation actions.

REMEMBER: Hazards cross municipal and County boundaries. Your planning should not be done in a vacuum- keep it as an open process and work with your neighbors.